



National Congress Bulletin

JUNE-JULY 1955

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Dear Parent-Teacher Leaders:

YOU and our fellow members in the P.T.A. have entrusted to me the responsibility of being your national president. Before me now lies the task of justifying that great trust. I am sensible of the privilege I have, and I face the task with courage and confidence, knowing I can depend upon the cooperation of our millions of fellow workers.

All of us who hold positions of responsibility in parent-teacher work are interested in the essential character of parent-teacher leadership. At the national convention this past May, in a single, significant moment, I sensed what seemed to me the essence of our kind of leadership.

The Strength of Many

Mrs. Leonard, retiring as national president, had just given to me the symbols of the president's office—the president's gavel, the keys to our new national P.T.A. headquarters, and the president's oak-leaf pendant. As I turned to face the delegates, from that vast, dark auditorium flowed great strength—your strength, the strength of parent-teacher leadership throughout the nation. From behind me came the warm, supporting encouragement of our past national presidents—Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. William Kletzer, Mrs. William A. Hastings, Mrs. L. W. Hughes, and Mrs. John E. Hayes—all present at this dedication

convention to share with us their wisdom and rich experience in parent-teacher work.

That situation typified the setting in which all parent-teacher leaders work. Ours is not solitary leadership. It is shared leadership, distributed throughout our organization. Its strength is the strength of many. It is leadership based on a great tradition of mutual helpfulness and of dedicated and unselfish service.

Our Heritage

Dedicating our national P.T.A. building, Bonaro Overstreet said in her poem:

*... we stand today
Inheritors of dream, heirs of the
dreamers,
Their hope now made our own, their
task now ours.*



• The Executive Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Seated from left to right: Mrs. H. G. Stinnett, Jr., Mrs. Herman Nordfors, Mrs. Edward T. Walker, Mrs. Rollin Brown, Mrs. James C. Parker, Mrs. L. W. Alston. Standing left to right: Mrs. E. L. Church, Mrs. Ralph W. Frost, Dr. Kenneth E. Oberholtzer, Joseph A. Hunter, James H. Snowden, Mrs. O. S. Fatland, Mrs. T. H. Ludlow, Mrs. T. J. Mims. Mrs. Ramon Lawrence was absent when picture was taken.

Heirs of the dreamers, inheritors of the dream, we stand today, you and I. The dream is the noble parent-teacher dream of a just, compassionate, and peaceful world, a world in which all children receive the firm and loving guidance and teaching that enable them to become their best selves. Our predecessors had the imagination to dream that dream, and they also had the courage to dare and to do in order that the reality might come closer to the dream. We too can dedicate ourselves to dream and to dare and to do. We also can build for our successors an inheritance of dream and deed.

For the Future

How eager you are to start turning the vision into reality was very evident at the convention. Many of you wanted to know what the theme or program of the new administration will be, and many of you purchased the new edition of the *Parent-Teacher Manual* so that you could start work at once.

The Executive Committee of the National Congress is meeting this month to help develop the theme or program of our administration. It will be published in the *National Congress Bulletin* as soon as possible so that you will be able to consider it in planning your work for the coming year.

Youth-Serving Agencies

The great national voluntary youth-serving agencies make a unique contribution to American life, supplying through their informal education process opportunities for our boys and girls to grow in stature as responsible citizens, while enjoying programs of fun and fellowship. Our parent-teacher associations have long considered cooperation with these agencies an important part of their own work.

Official notice has come to headquarters that during 1954 a total of 14,208 Boy Scout troops were sponsored by parent-teacher units. It is gratifying to know that our members are finding it interesting and worthwhile to give the Boy Scouts of America the kind of support the organization wants and can use, support that according to our policy (see p. 8) does not involve financial obligation, but something much more valuable—service and goodwill. I am sure that this typifies our cooperation with other youth-serving groups.

The Parent-Teacher Manual

Now, a word of explanation about the new edition of the *Manual*. It is in two sections this year. Section I was ready at convention time and Section II will appear this fall. It is being published in two parts for this reason: The section on committee work is based on materials prepared by the national chairmen of standing committees. Since new national chairmen were elected at the convention in May, the section cannot be prepared until the new chairmen have had time to develop plans of work and suggestions for programs. Rather than delay publication of the entire *Manual*, we decided to publish it in two parts.

Supplies of Section I (containing material on officers' duties, bylaws, meetings, parliamentary procedure, program planning, policies and guiding principles) are now in the state offices which will distribute them to local units. Perhaps you have already received your copy. Section II will be published as soon as possible and we hope it will reach you early in the fall.

New Services of the National Congress

As a new service to local chairmen, the National Congress will reprint as separate leaflets the material in the *Manual* dealing with each standing committee. The reprints will be available without cost to the state congresses, which can then supply each local chairman with a free leaflet on the work of his particular committee.

Another new service, initiated by the previous administration, will be the distribution to every local, council, and district president of a copy of the *Convention Digest*. You will be delighted to have this publication, I know. The information, ideas, and practical suggestions that made the convention so very stimulating are there in compact form for you to apply in your own work

throughout the year. Be sure that your name and address are on file in your state office so they can be sent to Chicago to be put on the master mailing list in the National Office. You should receive the *Digest* in August or September.

We Resolve

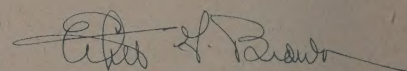
Important resolutions were adopted by the Board of Managers and by the national convention. One supported standards of employment that would attract and hold qualified teachers. The other recommended a higher status for the Children's Bureau. (You will find details of the resolutions in the texts printed on p. 7.)

The Children's Bureau, as you know, is the chief governmental agency working to improve the conditions under which our children are living and growing up. Our organization's interest in the Bureau dates back to 1911 when we endorsed a bill for its establishment. We are concerned because, in its present inferior position in one of the six constituent agencies of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Bureau is submerged in a welter of programs for the dependent, the retired, and the aged. Its chief cannot sit in on department policy councils and can only send reports and recommendations through "channels." If work for children's welfare is to be facilitated, it is essential that the Bureau be elevated to an independent administrative status within the department.

Will you discuss these resolutions with your membership? They are of deep concern to parent-teacher members, who will want to decide what action they should take as individuals or groups to make words become deeds.

May your summer be filled with bright and refreshing days. And as you turn to a new year of parent-teacher activities, may you find continuing happiness and satisfaction in the rewarding work you are doing.

Sincerely yours,



MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1956 CONVENTION

- The 1956 convention of the National Congress will be held in San Francisco, California.

Dates: May 20, 21, 22, 23.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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P.

T.

A.

BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

- **TAPE RECORDING** is a hobby of the first man to head the District of Columbia Congress, John B. Gilliland. The new president plans to set up a free P.T.A. recorded news service in his Washington office.
- **THE PROBLEM OF WHAT-TO-DO** with outgrown clothing has been solved by the Harlen P.T.A. of Wilmington, Delaware. Spring and fall swap shops give parents opportunities to buy and sell usable articles. Owners take 75 per cent of sales proceeds; the P.T.A., 25 per cent.
- **A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING** of the public school system, its philosophy, and its functions, was the purpose of meetings held by the Port Huron (Michigan) Council of P.T.A.'s. Interpretations of the philosophy were formulated by panel members who represented school administration and instruction, the Citizens Commission for Better Schools, and the Council.
- **WHY CHILDREN BEHAVE AS THEY DO** was the theme of the second annual afternoon-evening workshop sponsored by the Hamilton County Council of P.T.A., Cincinnati, Ohio. Following an address by Dr. Walter Waetjen of the University of Maryland, participating parents and teachers formed discussion groups set up according to age-level interest. A full account of the proceedings was recorded for future study.



Ledger Enquirer

- Mrs. Buford King, Jr., international relations chairman of the St. Elmo P.T.A. and Mrs. Paulette Huling, principal of the southern school (on right), decide on P.T.A. materials to be sent to England.



- Mrs. John Ehrenberg, president of Senn High School P.T.A., and Mrs. Elmer Weaver, second vice-president in charge of membership (on right), examine inscription on the standard of the unit's special flag award.

- **A YEAR OF IMPOSING MEMBERSHIP RECORDS** recently was recognized by Chicago's Senn High School P.T.A., largest Illinois group. One hundred per cent membership among the faculty and parents of students in forty division rooms helped to round out a total roster of 2,624 members. Each perfect-score room was presented with a silk American desk flag mounted on a base bearing the *Pledge of Allegiance*.
- **A RECREATION CLUB** for youthful alumni of Hazelwood Elementary School (Louisville, Kentucky) is a worthy project of the school's P.T.A. An advisory committee (school principal and two teachers, a police officer, a parent, a minister, a Y.M.C.A. representative) was set up. Chaperonage and financial assistance also are provided.
- **NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT THREE** consecutive years! That's the impressive record of 100 per cent family representation which can be boasted by the Benjamin Franklin P.T.A. of Louisville, Kentucky.
- **A CENSUS OF ALL CHILDREN** living in the school area, conducted by the Santa Fe Trail P.T.A., Overland Park, Kansas, reaps double benefits. The gathered statistics help with the P.T.A. Summer Round-Up and also offer a clue to sizes of future school classes.
- **A VALUABLE INTERNATIONAL BOND** has been formed between the St. Elmo P.T.A. (Columbus, Georgia) and an English school and its home and school association (P.T.A.). Through the efforts of Miss Elizabeth Parker, a local exchange teacher living in England, and Mrs. Buford King, Jr., international relations chairman of the St. Elmo unit, there has been a resulting two-way flow of good will, vital ideas, and explanatory materials.

CONVENTION CAMERA

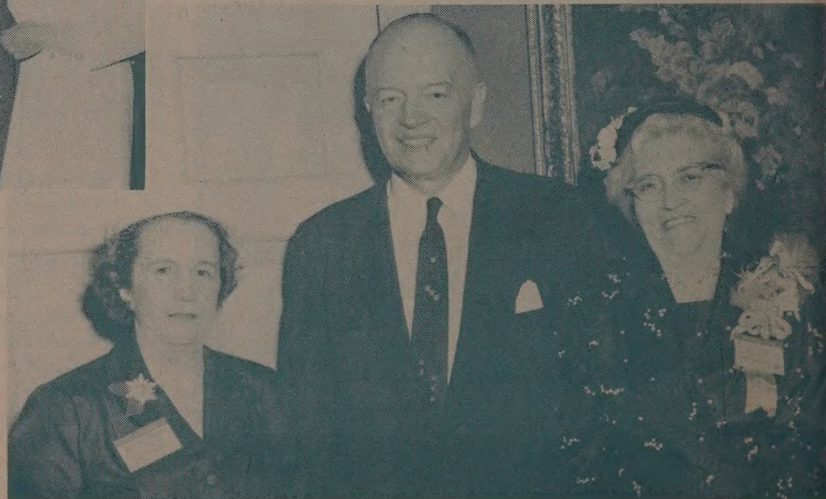


• Delegates, convention guests, and members assemble for the dedication session in the auditorium of the Civic Opera House.



• Four past national presidents pose with Mrs. Leonard (center). Left to right: Mrs. Wm. Kletzer, Mrs. L. W. Hughes, Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Wm. Hastings, Mrs. John Hayes.

• The Honorable Harold E. Stassen is the honor guest at the Minnesota Congress breakfast. Left to right: Mrs. P. J. Livingston, Minnesota state president; Mr. Stassen, Mrs. Leonard.



Unless otherwise credited, photographs are by Jon's Studio.



• Members of national and state headquarters committees meet at breakfast with the national president. Standing, left to right: Mrs. J. W. Heylman, Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, Knox Walker, Mrs. L. W. Hughes.



• The Councils Section Meeting gets under way. Standing at the microphone is Mrs. Russell Bickel, secretary of the National Congress. Seated next to her are the co-presiders, national vice-presidents, Mrs. H. G. Stinnett and Mrs. Edward T. Walker.



• The National Parent-Teacher magazine luncheon in the ballroom is attended by more than 600 delegates.



• Men state presidents at the dedication session. Left to right: Howard Bowen, Rulon Manning, Glenn Elliott, Galen Saylor, J. Ralph Brown, Knox Walker, Herbert Peckham, John Gilliland.

• Capt. Warren H. Wilson, magazine chairman of the Fort Bragg P.T.A., Fort Bragg, N. C. His association secured the most subscriptions to the magazine—a total of 668.





• Above: Mrs. Leonard presides at the evening session at which Mrs. Hastings installs the new officers. Left to right: Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, Mrs. Rollin Brown, Mrs. William Hastings.

• Opposite: Mrs. Brown receives from Mrs. Leonard the insignie of office—the gold chain made of oak leaves symbolizing the state branches.



RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

• Adopted at the Fifty-ninth Annual Convention, Chicago, May 25, 1955

Whereas, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has long believed that there should be a unified approach at the federal level to the solution of problems of protecting children, with focus in one agency, and

Whereas, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers endorsed a bill in 1911 introduced by Senator William E. Borah, calling for the establishment of such an agency, to be known as the Children's Bureau, and

Whereas, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has continued a close cooperation with the Children's Bureau throughout these many years, and has made use of its research in carrying forward many phases of the action program, and

Whereas, the Task Force Report on Federal Medical Services of the Hoover Commission on the reorganization of the executive branch of the government has

recommended that the Children's Bureau be raised to an independent agency, with its Chief immediately responsible to the secretary of the department in which it is placed, and

Whereas, the Children's Bureau is presently operating under the Social Security Administration within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Therefore be it resolved, that the delegates to the fifty-ninth annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in Chicago, Illinois, May 25, 1955, hereby endorse the recommendation of the Hoover Task Force Report that the Children's Bureau be removed from the Social Security Administration and placed in an administrative position in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in order that the mission of the Bureau, which is to take cognizance of the needs of the whole child in the broad fields of health, education, and welfare, may be facilitated.

And be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING TEACHERS' SALARIES AND STANDARDS OF EMPLOYMENT

• Adopted by the Board of Managers, May 21, 1955

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is deeply concerned over the continued shortage of qualified teachers.

The resolution of this problem can be accomplished by establishing conditions that will attract and hold competent men and women in the teaching profession.

Therefore, we recommend that we continue the important work of improving standards of employment and raising the high professional level of teachers.

We support the following professional standards for teachers who are four- and five-year college graduates with full professional qualifications; a minimum beginning salary of \$3,600 a year with annual increments the second year and each year thereafter to a salary level of \$7,500—\$8,500 for experienced and efficient teachers.

We commend the states and communities that have already established salary schedules equal to or higher than these—with provision for periodic review, and we strongly urge the adoption of similar standards in each of the states and in all of the school districts.

• The National Board of Managers will meet in Chicago, Illinois, September 18–24.

National Congress Relationships with Youth-serving Agencies

● The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has a strong interest in the activities and objectives of the youth-serving agencies. These groups, in general, seek through carefully planned programs to build character and to develop good citizens. Usually membership is open to all, regardless of race, religion, or economic status.

Parent-teacher associations and youth-serving agencies should seek understanding and knowledge of each other's programs in order to achieve the most fruitful cooperation. The local unit, for its part, has certain responsibilities toward any group with purposes so closely related to its own program as are those of the youth-serving agencies. It should seek to arouse widespread public interest in the need for youth groups. It should encourage their formation; help to secure competent adult leadership for them; and cooperate with them in promoting character development and good citizenship.

Units should not make contributions from P.T.A. funds to any other groups or agencies. This applies to such financial obligations as payment of individual dues or the purchase of uniforms or equipment. However, a local unit may pay the fee for adult leadership training and/or the registration fee when aid of this type is essential to the formation or continuation of a youth group. When a local unit sponsors a youth group, it does not assume financial responsibility for the group. Rather, it seeks to provide adult leadership.

Because one goal of citizenship education is training the whole group as well as the individual members for self-sufficiency, the local unit should not encourage any youth group to depend on P.T.A. funds.

"CITIZENS VIEW THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS"

"Citizens View the Public Schools," a series of ten radio programs designed to discuss some of the most pertinent problems in education today, gives promise of providing lay groups with both informative and enjoyable listening for several weeks to come. This series is to be produced at Columbia University Teachers College and broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company. It is scheduled for broadcast Fridays from

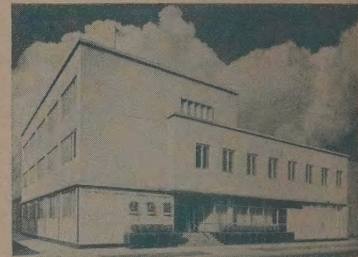
3:05-3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, beginning July 15 and ending September 16.

Please check your local radio schedules for exact time of broadcast in your community. If by chance your local radio stations are not planning to broadcast the series because of other commitments, you might suggest their taking the programs on platters for release at later dates.

July 15	L. A. Cremin	"What Are the Big Issues in Education Today?"
July 22	D. R. Davies	"Who Makes Policy for the Public Schools?"
July 29	S. M. Corey	"To What Extent Are Modern Teaching Methods Based on Reliable Knowledge About Learning?"
August 5	Roma Gans	"What Are the Essentials of a Good Public School Program in 1955?"
August 12	R. A. Patouillet	"What Is the Responsibility of the Public School for Fostering Mental Health?"
August 19	P. H. Phenix	"How Do the Public Schools Teach Moral and Spiritual Values?"
August 26	J. E. Russell	"How Do the Public Schools Teach Citizenship?"
September 2	W. S. Elsbree	"How Can the Public Schools Obtain and Maintain Good Teaching Staffs?"
September 9	E. E. Reutter	"How Can Communities Finance Good Public School Programs?"
September 16	D. B. Austin	"How Can the Average Citizen Participate More Effectively in Improving Public Education?"

A PICTURE TRIP THROUGH P. T. A. HEADQUARTERS

● A new brochure tells a colorful picture story of our national headquarters. Twenty-nine exquisite full-color photographs take you on a step-by-step trip through the beautiful building. Each picture is concisely described to give you an idea of where and how the varied activities of the National Congress are carried on. Your P.T.A. will want to own one or more copies of this attractive brochure. You will be proud to pass it around for your friends and neighbors to see.



Price: 60 cents each or 2 for \$1.00. Available only from the national office.